

26 November 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: DO/IRO

25X1 FROM:

Chief, Classification Review Division

SUBJECT: Adolph Berle Papers on the Free Europe Committee
at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Presidential Library (U)

1. NARS has advised us that the Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) Presidential Library is the custodian for the personal papers of the late Adolph Berle, who was one of Roosevelt's brain trust. Recently, Berle's widow sent the FDR library six feet of Berle's personal papers which concern FEC and Radio Free Europe, some of which are marked classified. An individual by the name of Schwartz is writing a biography of Berle and is trying to gain access to these papers. (U)

2. In anticipation of a need to furnish these papers to the biographer, the FDR library personnel sent a sampling to NARS asking to have them cleared or do whatever is necessary for their release. Alan Thompson, Chief of the Declassification Division at NARS forwarded them to CIA since we are the responsible agency for FEC records. Thompson sees this matter as falling somewhere between a systematic review request and an eventual mandatory request. Although FDR died before the FEC was created, Berle lived much longer, became involved in the organization of FEC and its various activities and willed his personal papers to FDR library. Office of Personnel files indicate that Berle never held an official position with CIA, but he was a witting principal in several Agency-sponsored covert action projects in the 1950s and early 1960s, including the National Committee for a Free Europe and activities sponsored by that committee such as Radio Free Europe. It is estimated that about ten percent of the six feet of material is sensitive since it involves the Committee and RFE. (U)

3. To judge from this sample, the Berle collection contains little in the way of U.S. government classified material although many of the Committee and RFE documents are marked "CONFIDENTIAL," or "STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL." The documents are almost entirely internal Committee/RFE letters and memoranda, although one document does appear to have originated with the CA Staff. NARS is concerned, as we are, that the documents may contain information that remains sensitive in spite of the fact that the U.S. government has admitted

NLC NLC review(s) completed.
review(s)
completed.

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that RFE was a creature of CIA. The fact that CIA funded RFE and that the U.S. government, through CIA, provided basic policy and control is amply documented in congressional hearings and in books cleared by CIA. We therefore reviewed the material looking to protect individuals associated with CIA who have not been compromised, specific funding mechanisms used by the CIA, and details of the methods of control and manipulation that were used. (C)

4. On the basis of our review, we have divided the documents into four categories, as follows:

(A) Innocuous documents that deal strictly with the internal workings of FEC as a normal, overt organization, with no allusions to a CIA connection. We see no problem in the release of these documents.

(B) Documents which allude to the CIA interest in the Free Europe Committee by references to a "sponsor" or "friends", which obviously mean CIA in the light of the subsequent official acknowledgement of CIA involvement. We see no problem in the release of these documents since this corroborates information already in the public domain.

(C) The remaining nine documents raise some questions, as follows:

1. Document 8 refers to consideration of starting an RFE-type project in the future targetted against [redacted] We see no problem in the release of this document, but the DO desk concerned should be consulted.

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2. Documents 10 and 11 concern the European Advisory Council. Again, we see no problem, but the European Division may have comments regarding some of the individuals mentioned.

3. [redacted] as an RFE source. We see no problem in releasing this document.

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5. [redacted] but a certain identifiable individual was a CIA employee. We recommend withholding this document.

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6. [redacted] We see no problem in release from a national security standpoint (Note: Presidential Libraries are not subject to Privacy Act requests.)

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7. [] appears releasable, but since it may have originated with the CA Staff it should be checked out by the appropriate DO component.

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5. Your coordination on this review is requested. We also request your comments on how this review should be handled. First, should we ask NARS to simply let this matter develop into a mandatory review request and handle it accordingly? Second, since we have seen only a sampling of the Berle papers in question would you agree that the full six feet should be reviewed by CIA? We asked NARS whether the entire six feet could be forwarded to Washington, but after checking with the FDR library Alan Thompson of NARS informed us that it could not. (U)



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DOCUMENT INDEX

- ✓ Document 1. Confirms that CIA is principal sponsor for National Committee for a Free Europe, Inc. William H. Jackson was overt CIA. Paper discusses concept of "beachhead universities" to be established by NFE, but makes no reference to CIA involvement in management of program. Funding implied by submission of tentative budget to CIA.

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- ✓ Document 3. Informative letter to Meyer re university.
- ✓ Document 4. Asks Meyer to make (now overt) available to Committee
- ✓ Document 5. Budget approved, signed by *allen Dulles?*
- ✓ Document 6. Internal FEC correspondence re liquidation. Refers to "Sponsor."
- ✓ Document 7. FEC internal correspondence re 1956 budget (which they considered confidential). Refers to approval by "Sponsor."
- ✓ Document 8. 1952 correspondence with Bedell Smith re Berle's pet project. Re: Smith's "moral support" only. Berle suggests similar project in future for Near East. Nothing classified, but possibly touchy now.
- ✓ Document 9. Internal FEC memo re meeting with sponsors reps in re pensions for NFE employees.

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- ✓ Document 13. Internal "strictly confidential" memo re LA version of RFE.
- ✓ Document 14. Internal "confidential" memo re ^{*International*} ~~Peasants~~ Peasants Union.

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- / Document 17. Personal & Confidential RFE internal re unions
- / Document 18. RFE internal "strictly confidential" re Lisbon operation. Foreign relations if anything.
- / Document 18. RFE internal "strictly confidential"

[Redacted]

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- / Document 21. RFE internal confidential.
- / Document 22. "

- / Document 23. NCFE internal memo

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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- / Document 26. Internal NCFE confidential policy paper
- / Document 27. RFE SC internal memo re Sugetendeutsch.

[Redacted]

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- / Document 29. Free Europe press ^{conferences} ~~Conf~~ internal monthly report on mailings

- / Document 30. ~~Conf~~ internal report on SA by Hungarian Committee

- / Document 31. ~~Conf~~ quarterly report of Research Program on USSR by East European Fund, Inc.

- / Document 32. Copy of negotiated State document sent to Berle. No CIA interest, but should be cleared with State (Form Rel, etc.)

- / Document 33. ~~Conf~~ RFE internal re expansion of facilities

[Redacted]

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- / Document 36. FEC Confidential Background on European Advisory Committee members. Not sensitive, but there are veiled refs to CIA (Sponsor, friends across street, etc.)

- / Document 37. FEC monthly report ~~Confidential~~

- / Document 38. Report on 4th West Eur. ^{Advisory} ~~Confidential~~ Committee Meeting (Lisbon 1960)

- / Document 39. FEC Confidential report on poisoning attempt.

- / Document 40. FEC ~~Confidential~~ letter to board members.

✓ Document 41 Conf Crusade for Freedom to Berle. National Information
Bureau questioning funding of RFE by Crusade. "Friends"
won't intervene. Can you identify any members of NIB
board who can be made discreetly witting? *is a question asked.*

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Save this for
the CRD file
as background.

SK
Liaison / FDR Library

Approved For Release 2009/01/08 : CIA-RDP85B00236R000100110001-1

**LOAN RECEIPT FOR THE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES**

INSTRUCTIONS: Requesting agency completes items 12 - 15 and returns the white copy to the address shown in item 6 below.

1. DATE DUE	2. DATE LOANED Sep 1964	3. LOAN NUMBER 48	4. RECORD GROUP NUMBER
5. DELIVER RECORDS TO: (Name of borrowing agency) Classification Review Division Central Intelligence Agency Washington, D.C. 20505		6. RETURN RECORDS TO: 25X1	
7. AGENCY CONTACT	8. TELEPHONE NUMBER	9. TO RETURN RECORDS TELEPHONE 202-456-1111	10. LOAN HANDLED BY JOS-1111
11. RECORD IDENTIFICATION			

One sealed package from [redacted]

The receipt on loan from the National Archives of the records listed above is hereby acknowledged. It is expressly agreed that they will be carefully protected against any injury or loss, kept in their present order or sequence, and returned promptly on or before the above-stated "Date due" unless special permission for an extension of the loan for a specified period of time has been obtained from the above-named Division or Branch of the National Archives.

12. RECORDS TO BE USED BY (Name)	13. NO. OF ITEMS	14. LOCATION OF RECORDS	
15. RECEIPT ACKNOWLEDGED BY	DATE	16. RETURN ACKNOWLEDGED BY	DATE